Next chance to Hajis

3130. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any proposal thai people left out of this year's Haj due to the swine flu scare would be accommodated in the next years pilgrimage; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No. No Indian pilgrim was specifically left out of this year's Haj due to the swine flu scare.

(b) Does not arise.

China's role in South Asia

3131. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent statement of U.S. President Barrack Obama with regard to China's role in South Asia, particularly in Indo-Pak relations;

(b) if so, India's response to these statements;

(c) whether the same has been communicated to the U.S. administration; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Yes. With regard to the US China Joint Statement of November 17, 2009, Government of India stated, on November 18, 2009 that "Government of India is committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan through a peaceful bilateral dialogue in accordance with the Shimla Agreement. A third country role cannot be envisaged nor is it necessary. We also believe that a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan can take place only in an environment free from terror or the threat of terror.

(c) Yes.

(d) Does not arise.

Pakistan Co-operation to solve 26/11 attack

3132. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Pakistan is extending co-operation to India in the investigation of 26/11 terrorist attacks in Mumbai;

(b) if not, whether Government proposes to take any steps to push Pakistan to do more in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) Government has shared evidence with Pakistan in the form of seven dossiers on the role of Pakistani nationals in the terrorist attack on Mumbai in November 2008. Pakistan acknowledged and admitted on February 12, 2009 that the terrorist attack was planned and launched from Pakistan. In its dossier of July 11,2009, Pakistan also acknowledged that substantial incriminating evidence had been unearthed which directly connects five accused LeT operatives under Pakistani custody. Two more suspects were arrested later. On November 25, 2009, the Government of Pakistan reportedly filed a charge sheet in an Anti Terrorism Court in Pakistan against the seven suspects and 20 proclaimed offenders for their role in the terrorist attack on Mumbai.

Government has conveyed its concerns and expectations to Pakistan on several occasions, including at the highest level in the meetings of Prime Minister with President and Prime Minister of Pakistan and in the meetings between EAM and Foreign Minister of Pakistan. Pakistan has stated that it will bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai attack to justice. Government expects Pakistan to act with purpose against the perpetrators of the Mumbai attack as also to unearth the wider conspiracy which motivated, planned and launched the attack.

Security lapse in White House

†3133. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently there was a security lapse during the dinner in the White House which was organized in honour of Prime Minister during his visit to America;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has constituted any team to investigate this security lapse; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Government of India is aware that there was a protocol lapse on the occasion of the State dinner hosted by the US President for our Prime Minister during his recent visit to the USA. The Director of the US Secret Service, Mr. Mark Sullivan in his statement before the House Committee on Homeland Security on 2 December 2009 said that "Established protocols and procedures were not followed to allowing two individuals entry into White House on the evening of 24th November 2009. Preliminary findings have determined that established protocol related to entry into the White House was not followed at the initial check point."

(c) and (d) No. Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.